sending a message to each of said plurality of gateways to obtain a trace route;

ranking the plurality of gateways based on the trace route of each of said plurality of gateways;

translating an identifier of a destination of the call from a listing of telephone numbers and associated internet protocol addresses in the directory service;

selecting a gateway with a highest ranking from said plurality of gateways; and

attempting to route the call over the selected gateway.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

attempting to route the call over a next ranked gateway upon a failure of said step of attempting to route the call over the selected gateway.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein said step of ranking includes the following steps:

ranking highest any of said plurality of gateways that are accessible without traveling through any intervening router;

ranking all of said plurality of gateways that are accessible without traveling through any intervening router in order of lowest latency, if more than one of said plurality of gateways are accessible without traveling through any intervening router; and

ranking lowest any remaining gateways of said plurality of gateways.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said step of ranking lowest any remaining gateways further includes:

ranking any remaining gateways of said plurality of gateways in order of lowest latency.

35.   A hybrid network, comprising:

a circuit switched communication network;

a packet transmission network coupled to the circuit switched communications network;

a plurality of gateways connecting the circuit switched communication network and the

packet network; and

a call router coupled to the circuit switched communications network with logic that

transmits a query including a type of call service to the directory service to obtain a plurality of

gateways between the packet switched network and circuit switched network that match the

predefined call service criteria, sends a message to each of said plurality of gateways to obtain a

trace route, ranks the plurality of gateways based on the trace route of each of said plurality of

gateways, translates an identifier of a destination of the call from a listing of telephone numbers

and associated internet protocol addresses in the directory service, selects a gateway with a

highest ranking from said plurality of gateways, and attempts to route the call over the selected

gateway.

36.   The hybrid network of claim 35, wherein said logic attempts to route the call over a next

ranked gateway upon a failure of the attempt to route the call over the selected gateway.

37.   The hybrid network of claim 35, wherein said logic ranks highest any of said plurality of

gateways that are accessible without traveling through any intervening router, ranking all of said

plurality of gateways that are accessible without traveling through any intervening router in order

of lowest latency, if more than one of said plurality of gateways are accessible without traveling

through any intervening router; and ranks lowest any remaining gateways of said plurality of

gateways.

38. The hybrid network of claim 37, wherein said logic ranks lowest any remaining gateways

of said plurality of gateways in order of lowest latency.--.